

Promotion of Trade with Asian, African and South American Countries

†563. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are working on any scheme with a view to promote trade with Asian, African, and South American countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of present status of trade with these countries;

(d) the target of trade with the said countries by the end of the present Five Year Plan; and

(e) the details of progress made so far in order to achieve the said targets?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Promotion of international trade with the Asian, African and South American countries is an ongoing and continuous process. Besides, increasing our trade with the largest trading partners like USA and EU, it is also our objective to increase our trade with Asian, African and South American countries. For instance, the Government has initiated Focus-LAC programme in 1997, which has now been extended to March, 2003. Keeping in view the market conditions in various countries, efforts are made to exploit such market potential to achieve maximum gains in trade. Trade promotion measures such as organisation of Joint Commission Meetings, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, Buyer Seller Meets, exchange of commercial information and delegations, organisation of Joint Business Council Meetings, periodical analysis of bilateral trade with each country and taking corrective measures wherever necessary, appropriate and prompt redressal of trade disputes etc., are undertaken regularly.

(c) to (e) No specific trade targets have been fixed in respect of countries of these regions for the present Five Year Plan. The present

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

status of trade with the countries of these regions during the period of April—Oct. 2000-2001 is given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

The status of trade during the period April—October 2000-2001

Region	Exports	Percentage growth of Exports as compared to the corresponding period of 1999-2000	Imports	Figure in
				(US \$ Million)
Asia and Oceania	9079.56	19.66	8387.06	—30.70
Africa	1308.87	17.05	1656.90	—51.75
South America	329.83	40.08	377.49	—26.27

Financial Assistance for special projects to Rajasthan

†564. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by Ministry of Commerce and Industry to the State Government of Rajasthan as a grant during the financial years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 alongwith details of items programme or project and for any special head under which the same has been given; and

(b) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has timely provided the expenditure account to the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) The amount provided by Ministry of Commerce and Industry to the State Government of Rajasthan as a grant during the financial years of

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